RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES SERIES

TAKING CHARGE OF TRANSATLANTIC TRADE: THE EU AS A GLOBAL LEADER

Transatlantic trade is a key strategic interest for the EU, with the US accounting for 20% of all EU exports and 14% of the EU's imports coming from the US. As transatlantic ties are under stress, the EU finds itself in a challenging position. The US is drifting away from the principles of the postwar liberal economic order and this makes it increasingly difficult to maintain constructive trade relations.

However, the disengagement of the US Administration also brings new opportunities. As the US further withdraws into a protectionist position, it is leaving behind a vacuum of economic power. In this context, the EU can further develop its position as the pacesetter in transatlantic and world trade, making the new situation a blessing in disguise.

This raises important questions about the EU's strategy to deal with this new situation: Is the EU ready to fill the shoes of the US? What can the EU do to develop a more proactive approach towards transatlantic trade relations? And how can the EU still engage constructively with the US in the future?

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION THURSDAY | 21 MARCH 2019 17:30 H – 19:00 H BELVUE MUSEUM PLACE DES PALAIS 7 | BRUSSELS





WELCOME BY MARTINA DLABAJOVÁ MEP

Vice President of the European Liberal Forum

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY CECILIA MALMSTRÖM European Commissioner for Trade

DISCUSSION WITH

LUISA SANTOS Director for International Relations at BusinessEurope

PROF. DR. ANDRÉ SAPIR Senior Fellow at Bruegel & University Professor at Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

MARIETJE SCHAAKE MEP Member of the European Parliament (D66/ALDE)

MODERATED BY DANIEL KADDIK Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum

WORKING LANGUAGE ENGLISH

ELF underlines the achievements of Lord Dahrendorf with a series of exceptional events connected to his name. Lord Dahrendorf was an ardent supporter of a stronger Europe, consistently promoting the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty during his time as a member of the Bundestag, as European Commissioner, Peer of the British House of Lords and Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

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